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NSTA to Assist Local Drive-In Conferences

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The art of "not telling", however, is a very difficult one to master, especially for most science instructors, and the students don't make it any easier for the instructor in this regard. Students are accustomed to being told whether they are right or wrong and tend to badger the instructor for this kind of evaluation. Sometimes students become frustrated because ideas or solutions don't come quickly. These are trying times for both student and instructor. But the instructor must keep in mind that the long-range benefits of student-generated solutions far outweigh the short-term relief offered by matter-of-fact, instructor answers.

A second problem concerns the scope and diversity of the activities offered. On the one hand, it is important to expand continually the pool of activities available to students, thus insuring greater involvement of students in areas which interest them. There are problems with expanding activities. First, very few traditional laboratory activities from basic areas such as physics, chemistry, biology and earth science can be adopted wholesale into the Foundations program without drastic modification or revision. A second problem with an expanding activity pool is that the job of administering the activities soon gets out of control--especially if staff and funds are in short supply.

It is this author's contention, however, that the advantages to the non-science major in an activity-oriented program such as Science Foundations far outweigh the disadvantages and inconveniences to the instructor. The needs of the non-science student have been ignored too long and new instructional strategies have been too slow in coming. The Science Foundations program, in our view, is the necessary first step on the path to more meaningful science instruction for the non-science student.

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NSTA to Assist Local Drive-in Conferences

Individual NSTA members, chapters, and associated groups interested in sponsoring local or drive-in conferences are invited to write in for application forms. Limited grants of up to \$150 will be made available depending on available funds.

It is hoped that conferences will concentrate on promoting communication among teachers within a convenient driving radius. Actual content and arrangements will of course vary widely, with conferences focusing on local problems, experiences, and interests.

Administration of the conferences is handled by Dorothy K. Culbert, NSTA Director, Division of Field Services. For information and application forms, write to Mrs. Culbert at NSTA Headquarters.